Production cost of steel

1175. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the counry's largest steel producer, the State-owned Steel Authority of India Ltd., is finalising a plan to bring down its production cost;

(b) if so, whether the SAIL, which produces 11 million tonnes of steel over four plants spread across the country, is learnt to be working on a major cost reduction programme that would bring down the production cost by two per cent or by about Rs.250 per tonne; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To further improve financial performance and cost competitiveness of SAIL, it has already drawn a cost reduction plan for 2002-03 so as to reduce the costs by over Rs. 250 per tonne on constant price basis.

VRS for SAIL's non-executives

1176. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL is embarking upon introducing an immature retirement scheme for non-executives, with a view to ease out a large chunk of employees; is so, why it is meant for non-executives only;

(b) how many workers have opted for VRS in SAIL for the last ten years;

(c) whether there have already exists a scheme for executives and hence, the present scheme is for non-executives only; and

(d) if so, how many executives have been immaturely retired in SAIL since inception?